

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of Southern California Gas Company (U 904 G) for Approval of Program Year 2003 Low-Income Assistance Programs and Funding.	Application 02-07-001 (Filed July 1, 2002)
Application of San Diego Gas & Electric Company (U 902 E) for Approval of Program Year 2003 Low-Income Assistance Programs and Funding.	Application 02-07-002 (Filed July 1, 2002)
Application Of Pacific Gas And Electric Company (U 39 M) For Approval Of The 2003 California Alternate Rates For Energy and Low-Income Energy Efficiency Programs and Budget.	Application 02-07-003 (Filed July 1, 2002)
Southern California Edison Company's (U 338-E) Application Regarding Low-Income Assistance Programs for Program Year 2003.	Application 02-07-004 (Filed July 1, 2002)
Order Instituting Rulemaking on the Commission's Proposed Policies and Programs Governing Low-Income Assistance Programs.	Rulemaking 01-08-027 (Filed August 23, 2001)

**ASSIGNED COMMISSIONER'S RULING
ESTABLISHING CATEGORY AND PROVIDING SCOPING MEMO
AND COMMENT PERIOD FOR CARE PROGRAM EVALUATION PROPOSAL**

Pursuant to Rules 6(c)(2) and 6.3 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, this ruling designates the category of Application (A.) 02-07-001, A.02-07-002, A.02-07-003 and A.02-07-004 (referred to as "A.02-07-001 et al."), addresses the need for hearings, and provides a scoping memo confirming and

clarifying the issues and schedule discussed at the prehearing conference (PHC). The PHC was held on July 22, 2002 in Rulemaking (R.) 01-08-027, our generic proceeding covering utility low-income assistance programs. By subsequent ruling, dated August 7, 2002, A.02-07-001 et al. were consolidated into a separate, ratemaking proceeding.

In addition, today's ruling establishes the comment period for the Joint Utility Proposals for the California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) Program Evaluation, filed in R.01-08-027 on August 16, 2002.

Scoping of A.02-07-001 et al.

The Commission will address the program year (PY) 2003 low-income assistance programs and budgets of Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E), Southern California Edison Company (SCE) and Southern California Gas Company (SoCal), collectively "the utilities." These programs consist of rate discounts, referred to as the CARE program, and direct weatherization and energy efficiency services, referred to as the Low Income Energy Efficiency (LIEE) program.

As discussed at the PHC, the focus of this proceeding will be PY2003 LIEE program plans that continue all the measures authorized by the Commission in Decision (D.) 01-05-033."¹ I also initiate an evaluation of the LIEE program and all LIEE measures using the cost-effectiveness methodology adopted by the Commission in D.02-08-034, dated August 8, 2002. This evaluation will begin with the utilities' filings, due this fall, and continue into 2003. (See schedule below.)

¹ Per D.01-05-033, Ordering Paragraph 19, the rapid deployment strategy adopted in that decision, including pilot LIEE measures, are to continue "until further order."

In a separate proceeding, A.02-04-031 et al., the Commission is considering proposals for funding increases to the utilities' current CARE program budgets to enable them to continue rapid deployment outreach activities through 2002. The adopted budgets will be in effect until further order by the Commission. A draft decision has been issued for comment. As discussed at the PHC, further consideration of CARE program activities and budgets should await our implementation of automatic enrollment. Accordingly, I will defer review of the utilities' post-2002 CARE program plans and budgets until further notice.

In D.02-07-033, the Commission directed the utilities to augment their CARE PY2003 applications with a proposed scope of study for evaluating the first twelve months of automatic enrollment, and associated budget. At the PHC, Judge Gottstein directed the utilities to augment that proposal with a scope of study and budget to evaluate rapid deployment CARE outreach efforts and administration, including an assessment of "best practices." The utilities filed their joint proposal on August 16, 2002. The Commission will consider these proposals as part of A.02-07-001 et al., as set forth in the schedule below.

Categorization

This proceeding was preliminarily categorized as a ratesetting proceeding. There have been no objections to this categorization, and I concur with it. This represents the ruling on categorization under Rule 6(a)(3), and it may be appealed under Rule 6.4.

Need For Hearings

By ALJ Resolutions 176-3091, the Commission preliminarily determined that hearings would be needed to address the issues in this proceeding. However, given the "stay the course" scope of LIEE program plans for PY2003, discussed above, I believe that the Commission can resolve these issues without

hearings. I will make a determination regarding the need for hearings on the cost-effectiveness evaluation of the LIEE program and measures at a further PHC.

Schedule

PY2003 LIEE Program Plans and Budgets

Utility Applications filed	July 1, 2002
PHC	July 22, 2002
PG&E/SCE “stay the course” supplements due	August 9, 2002
Comments due	August 26, 2002
Replies due	September 4, 2002

Joint Utility Proposal for CARE Program Evaluation

Joint Utility Proposal	August 16, 2002
Comments due	September 6, 2002
Replies due	September 13, 2002

Cost-Effectiveness Evaluation of LIEE Program and Measures

Utility filings (per D.02-08-034)	September 23, 2002
Comments (per D.02-08-034)	November 7, 2002
Reply Comments (per D. 02-08-034)	November 27, 2002
Energy Division Workshops	January 2003
Further PHC	to be scheduled

I anticipate that a decision on PY2003 LIEE program plans and budgets and on the joint utility proposals for CARE program evaluations will be prepared and placed on the Commission's agenda in November, 2002. The schedule for completing the cost-effectiveness evaluation of LIEE program and measures will be established by subsequent ruling. In no event will resolution of A.02-07-001 et al. exceed 18 months from the date the applications were filed.

Ex Parte Communications and Reporting

Parties are reminded that ex parte communications are permitted only if consistent with the restrictions set forth in Pub. Util. Code § 1701.3(c) and Rule 7(c.), and are subject to the reporting requirements set forth in Rule 7.1.

Filing and Service Procedures

All comments required by this decision shall be filed at the Commission's Docket Office and served electronically on all appearances and the state service list in A.02-07-001 et al. and R.01-08-027. Service by U.S. mail is optional, except that one hard copy shall be mailed to Judge Meg Gottstein at P.O. Box 210, Volcano, CA 95689. In addition, if there is no electronic mail address available, the electronic mail is returned to the sender, or the recipient informs the sender of an inability to open the document, the sender shall immediately arrange for alternate service (regular U.S. mail shall be the default, unless another means—such as overnight delivery—is mutually agreed upon). Parties that prefer a hard copy or electronic file in original format in order to prepare analysis and filings

in this proceeding may request service in that form as well. The current service list for this proceeding is available on the Commission's web page, www.cpuc.ca.gov.

IT IS SO RULED.

Dated August 21, 2002, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ CARL W. WOOD
Carl W. Wood
Assigned Commissioner

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I have by mail, and by electronic mail to the parties to which an electronic mail address has been provided, this day served a true copy of the original attached Assigned Commissioner's Ruling Establishing Category and Providing Scoping Memo and Comment Period for CARE Program Evaluation Proposal on all parties of record in this proceeding or their attorneys of record.

Dated August 21, 2002, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ ERLINDA PULMANO
Erlinda Pulmano

N O T I C E

Parties should notify the Process Office, Public Utilities Commission, 505 Van Ness Avenue, Room 2000, San Francisco, CA 94102, of any change of address to insure that they continue to receive documents. You must indicate the proceeding number on the service list on which your name appears.

The Commission's policy is to schedule hearings (meetings, workshops, etc.) in locations that are accessible to people with disabilities. To verify that a particular location is accessible, call: Calendar Clerk (415) 703-1203.

If specialized accommodations for the disabled are needed, e.g., sign language interpreters, those making the arrangements must call the Public Advisor at (415) 703-2074, TTY 1-866-836-7825 or (415) 703-5282 at least three working days in advance of the event.

